drought situation. Further action will be taken in accordance with the procedure for assistance from the NCCF.

Mumbai-Kanyakumari dedicated high speed corridor

*236. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(c) whether Railways propose to construct high speed passenger corridors;

(d) if so, the details of the regions that would be covered by these corridors;

(e) the details of the stations proposed to be connected in the southern region;

(f) whether there is proposal for Mumbai-Kanyakumari dedicated high speed corridor;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the work on these projects is expected to begin?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways had decided only to conduct pre-feasibility studies for construction of high speed passenger corridors, one each in the Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern rtgiuns of the country. The selected corridors are as below:

(i) Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar

(ii) Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad

(iii) Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijayawada-Chennai

(iv) Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam

(v) Howrah-Haldia

(e) The station which would be connected by Southern corridor will be known only after completion of pre-feasibility studies and will depend on demand, financial viability and operational feasibility.

(f) Yes, **Sir.**

(g) Aproposal from Chief Minister of Kerala has been received for Mumbai-Kanyakumari corridor. Ministry of Railways is undertaking a pre-feasibility study of Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam section of this corridor.

(h) Global tenders for engaging .a Consultant for conducting pre-feasibility studies are under process. A decision shall be taken only after these studies are completed and evaluated.

Effective scheme to improve the condition of farmers

†*237. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are not getting the benefits of facilities and packages declared by Government due to which they are compelled to commit suicide owing to indebtedness;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi